



NOTHING SO STALE . . . as yesterday's news Mayor J. Hugh Sherfey Jr. discovers Monday Morning as he reads Fred Montgomery's barber shop copy of the Torrance Herald's EXTRA published Sunday afternoon (the first in 22 years). The issue carried the story of the resignation of the recall leaders. Monday the "committee" denied all and said Sherfey and three other councilmen were still in the recall path of their political "broom" and resumed a sweeping plan to "clean house."

## Political Merry-go-round

# RECALL CARNIVAL OILED FOR YET ANOTHER WHIRL

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## TORRANCE HERALD



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Twenty Pages

### City in Dizzy Dither

The recall movement this week began to take on the aspects of the famous Abbott and Costello confusion routine of "Who's on Firstbase" and the equally famous saying about Flannigan being off-again, on-again—or is it?

It began when . . . Sunday afternoon the Torrance Herald published the first extra in 22 years, announcing the resignation of the leaders of the move to recall the Mayor and three councilmen.

Tuesday night George Downing, a behind the scenes director of the movement, said that the editor of the Peninsula

Chairman Bowman's and Secretary Kail's resignations as published in Sunday's Extra edition of the Torrance Herald will be found on page two. This original signed statement is in the hands of the Torrance Herald.

Press had mailed to newspapers in the area a statement from the Torrance Civic Betterment Committee, stating that the movement was not in the "dying swan stage."

In the meantime William Bowman, chairman, and Kenneth Kail, secretary, of the TCBC respectively reported they were definitely out of the picture—that they had not retracted their resignations.

At the bottom of yesterday's press release were the pen-and-ink names, ostensibly signatures, of four local men—among those names was William Bowman's. Three of the signatures were in the same handwriting, an expert claimed.

Said Bowman: "That is NOT my signature and I did not authorize the use of my name."

J. G. Dawson, 1507 Cota avenue, made a similar statement to a newspaper representative. Still another name, that of M. R. "Sonny" Cooke, 2822 Gramercy avenue, a former bus department employee, proved not to be the signature of the man.

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# City Welcomes 41-Cent Drop in Tax Structure

## Drop in School Tax Rate Eases Strain on Taxpayers Wallet

There is good news in the news for Torrance taxpayers today. The rate is down 41 cents! With the adoption of the School Tax Rate by the County Board of Supervisors Torrance's all-over rate for 1949-50 will be \$6.33—within a penny or two.

The rate is down \$0.4131 per \$100 valuation over last year. Here is how the final seven item tax bill will look and how it looked a year ago:

County	49.50	48.49
City	\$1.60	\$1.7573
School	1.12	1.16
Flood Control	2.5457	2.7769
Sanitation	.1912	.1945
Metrop. Water Dist.	.2866	.2854
MID-1 or MWD-2	.34	.34
MID-1 or MWD-2	.25	.25
TOTAL	\$6.33*	\$6.7431

\*If you live in M.W.D. No. 1 rather than in E.I.D. No. 1 or M.W.D. No. 2 add one cent since that rate is 26 cents on Land and Improvements.

Adding up to the drop in the rate from 1948 is a lowering of the county tax rate of \$0.1578.

The city rate comprising 93 cents for the general tax rate for both tax districts, four cents for the library fund, and 15 cents for the retirement fund is down four cents from last year's rate of \$1.16.

Showing the biggest drop is the Torrance Unified School District rate which dropped \$0.2312 since last year.

Down slightly is the Flood Control tax which dropped \$0.0033.

The only rate which showed a hike was the Sanitation District No. 5 which went up \$0.0192 per hundred.

The Metropolitan Water District rate remained at 34 cents. Also holding fast were the rates for Torrance's three water districts.

Compared to many other areas the drop in tax rate for Torrance paints a rather rosy picture. For instance Los Angeles School District, until two years ago the governing body of Torrance's schools, hiked their rates \$0.2691. This brings the L. A. school rate to \$2.4067 as compared with Torrance's \$2.5457.

Though Torrance's school rate is slightly higher than L. A.'s it brings the two more within range. Part of the current Torrance School Tax Rate, \$0.2957, is being applied to retire the old Los Angeles Bonds and the current Torrance Bonds. The largest piece of the School tax dollar is being applied to the maintenance of the High School, the Elementary School, and Kindergarten. Sixty cents of the rate is collected for the El Camino Junior College.

A study of the school tax rates in other communities in the county as conducted by Board President Dr. Howard A. Wood shows there are 18 districts with a higher rate than Torrance and 13 lower. Of those districts 17 are more than ten cents higher while 11 are more than 10 cents lower. Four are within 10 cents of the Torrance rate.

### Fifth Child Born To Widow of Air Crash Victim

Mrs. Mary Conover, widow of a North American test pilot who was killed in a crash off El Segundo last February gave birth to her fifth child Sunday at the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

The new arrival, a six-pound 10 1/2-ounce girl was named Priscilla.

Mrs. Conover returned to her home at 5454 Sharynne Lane, Seaside Ranchos this week. Greeting the new arrival were Priscilla's three sisters, Molly, Barbara, Carol, and brother Albie.

Albert W. Conover Jr., 23-year-old test pilot, was killed testing a new plane for the Navy on February 4. The plane crashed after witnesses said it shed its wings in mid-air. Also killed in the crash was Charles E. Brown, also a test pilot.

### Police Snare Gunmen Who Looted Niter

Two gun-wielding bandits, one of whom formerly lived in Torrance, admitted Tuesday they had held up the Hi-Ho Pool Hall cafe on the night of July 21, according to Compton police.

At the same time, the duo confessed to 20 other robberies involving some \$20,000 committed in Los Angeles county, officers claimed.

Carl Lee Ashcraft, 30, and Loy Wayne Coday, both of Compton, were picked up by police following the holdup of a store in the Hub City.

Ashcraft was known here as a bootlegger, Torrance police indicated. The pair entered the Hi-Ho cafe on a Sunday evening, flourished pistols and left with \$80 from the till, the cafe owner told police. The bandits also took an estimated \$120 from nitery patrons, police said.

### Pair Rescued After Boat Capsizes off Redondo Beach

Two Torrance men were rescued off the Redondo Beach shore Sunday when their small boat capsized in the rough sea.

According to lifeguards who effected the rescue the men were Jack Boos, 35, and Ernie Smith, 37, both of whom gave their address as 2276 Torrance boulevard.

An unusually late ebb tide was responsible for a heavy surf which caused the accident and brought minor injuries to the two men.



UNKNOWN PLUS UNKNOWN EQUALS . . . The Great Puzzle. Nurses Virginia Christensen and Anette Weldy, at Harbor General Hospital, try to compute their rebate in the coming GI life insurance dividend. Like other veterans—both nurses saw action during the recent war—find the answers not available. However, the application form was simple. —Herald Photo.

## Insurance Rebate Plan Puzzles Vets; Ask: How Much?

Every Joe and Jane who ever hit a chow line or sweated through a Saturday morning inspection, this week had a question in mind. And nobody in Torrance, L. A. County, Sacramento, or Washington could or would answer it.

"How much will I collect as a dividend from my National Service Life Insurance policy?"

That is the question. The formula by which veterans of World War II could figure their individual returns, was not so apparent. Veterans Administration officials explained this week that since so many factors enter into the final computation of the kickback, it would not be practicable to issue a pat formula.

Generally, individual entitlement is based on three main factors. They are 1) amount of insurance carried; 2) length of time it was kept in force; 3) age at the time the policy was purchased.

Of one thing all veteran authorities were sure: Before a veteran could collect his dividend, he would be required to complete a form! Said forms are being picked up by the hundreds at the Torrance Veterans Service Center, the local post office, and at any authorized veterans organization like the American Legion, the V.F.W. or at the home of James G. Caldwell, DAV acting Commander, 22120 Monica avenue, Wilmington.

Veterans will start receiving their returns sometime in January 1950. They will be mailed at a rate of 200,000 a day until all veterans who have dividends coming get them.

And Poppa, at the wheel of the family bus, will work like he never worked at work.

# City Low on Police Protection, Claim

Only one other city in Los Angeles County has less police protection per square mile than the city of Torrance, according to figures published in a recent crime study report. The report, filed by Virgil O'Malley of the Governor's Special Crime Study Commission was the same report which raised such a controversy early this summer. Parts of the report made public at that time claimed that inter-departmental jealousy was hindering criminal investigation. The claim was vigorously denied by the chiefs of police of the 44 agencies criticized.

A more detailed inspection of the original report showed that each square mile within Torrance is policed by 1.2 officers. With the exception of Los Angeles County itself which is policed by the Sheriff's department averaging 4 officers per square mile, only West Covina has less police protection per square mile than the City of Torrance.

The crime study, based on figures available in November of 1947 indicates that there is one Torrance police officer for every 799 residents. This figure was based on a census of 18,378 at the time. Since that time conservative estimates place the population over the 20,000 mark. There are presently 24 officers on the local force according to Police Chief John Stroh.

Other points covered in the report showed that the local jail has adequate ventilation, is pro-

### At Alondra Park

## Kids Sneak First Dips In Incompleted Swim Pool

Although a few inches of water trapped in a huge cement-like bowl does not a swimming pool make, you couldn't tell that to some 20 kids who Friday afternoon donned swim suits to take advantage of the first meager offerings of the new Alondra Park swimming pool.

Early that morning, workers let about four inches of water

flow into the hollow to insure proper drying of its newly gunned bottom. The magic communication system by which kids learn of such events was employed and in the time you could melt a popsicle in the afternoon sun youngsters were putting the splashmarks along the sides of the two-acre basin.

"This isn't a swimming pool yet," said an employee of the Macco Construction Co. which holds a \$20,447 county contract for the job. "In the first place,

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NOT A POOL, BUT IT'S WET . . . Kids who live near Alondra Park got a sneak preview of what the park's great outdoor pool will be like when it's completed later this year. After complet-

ing the pool's bottom, workers let about three inches of water flow into the expansive two-acre basin. That's all the kids were waiting for. —Herald Photo.